

Eric Holcomb

Eric Joseph Holcomb (born May 2, 1968)^[1] is an American politician serving as the 51st and current governor of Indiana since 2017. A member of the Republican Party, he served as the 51st lieutenant governor of Indiana from 2016 to 2017 under Governor Mike Pence, now the 48th Vice President of the United States. Holcomb was nominated to fill the remainder of Lieutenant Governor Sue Ellspermann's term after she resigned on March 2, 2016, to become President of Ivy Tech Community College.^[2] He won the 2016 election for governor of Indiana over Democratic nominee John R. Gregg.

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Early life and education

Holcomb was born in Indianapolis, Indiana. He graduated from Pike High School in Indianapolis,^[3] and in 1990 from Hanover College in Hanover, Indiana. At Hanover, he joined the fraternity Phi Gamma Delta^[4] and served as chapter president. Holcomb served in the United States Navy for six years as an intelligence officer,^[5] stationed in Jacksonville, Florida and in Lisbon, Portugal.^[6] He received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree from Trine University on October 5, 2018,^[7] and an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Anderson University on May 11, 2019.^[8]

Early political career

Eric Holcomb



51st Governor of Indiana

Incumbent

Assumed office

January 9, 2017

Lieutenant

Suzanne Crouch

Preceded by

Mike Pence

51st Lieutenant Governor of Indiana

In office

March 3, 2016 – January 9, 2017

Governor

Mike Pence

Preceded by

Sue Ellspermann

Succeeded by

Suzanne Crouch

Chair of the Indiana Republican Party

In office

January 3, 2011 – July 22, 2013

Preceded by

J. Murray Clark

Succeeded by

Tim Berry

Personal details

Born

Eric Joseph Holcomb

May 2, 1968

Holcomb began working for John Hostettler, a member of the United States House of Representatives, in 1997.^[9] In 2000, Holcomb ran for the Indiana House of Representatives against John Frenz, but was defeated.^[3]

From 2003 to 2011, Holcomb served as an advisor to Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels, eventually rising to the role of Deputy Chief of Staff,^{[10][11][12]} and served as campaign manager for Daniels's 2008 gubernatorial campaign. He became Chairman of the Indiana Republican Party in 2011.^[6] In 2013, he resigned to become the state chief of staff to U.S. Senator Dan Coats.^{[13][14]} In March 2015 Coats announced that he would not run for reelection to the Senate in the 2016 election, and Holcomb announced his intention to run.^[15] In February 2016, Holcomb withdrew from the Senate race.^{[16][17]}

Lieutenant governor of Indiana

After Lieutenant Governor Sue Ellspermann announced her resignation, Governor Mike Pence chose Holcomb to succeed her and to be his running mate in the 2016 gubernatorial election.^[18] Holcomb was sworn in as lieutenant governor on March 3, 2016.^[19]

	 Indianapolis, Indiana, U.S.
Political party	Republican
Spouse(s)	Janet Holcomb
Residence	 Governor's Residence
Education	 Hanover College (BA)
Website	 Government website (http://in.gov/gov)
Military service	
Allegiance	 United States
Branch/service	 United States Navy
Years of service	1990–1996

Governor of Indiana

2016 election



Holcomb at a gubernatorial debate

Governor Mike Pence was running for reelection with Holcomb as his running mate in the spring and summer of 2016. By late June, rumors that Pence would be the Republican Party’s nominee for Vice President under presumptive presidential nominee Donald Trump began to gain traction. In early July, Trump officially selected Pence as his running mate. Pence then withdrew from Indiana's gubernatorial election and Holcomb withdrew as the nominee for lieutenant governor. Holcomb decided to pursue the nomination for governor and was selected on the second ballot by the Indiana State Republican Central Committee, defeating Rep. Susan Brooks, Rep. Todd Rokita, and State Senator Jim Tomes.^[20]

Holcomb chose Indiana State Auditor Suzanne Crouch as his running mate. They faced 2012 Democratic nominee and former Indiana House Speaker John R. Gregg and his running mate, State Representative Christina Hale. After an unprecedented 106-day campaign, Holcomb defeated Gregg, 51.4% to 45.4%.

Tenure

After winning the election, Holcomb announced his agenda for the upcoming Indiana General Assembly legislative session. What Holcomb calls his “Next Level Agenda” is based on five “pillars”: strengthening and diversifying Indiana’s economy, strengthening Indiana’s infrastructure, strengthening education

and workforce training, strengthening public health and attacking addiction and providing great government service at an exceptional value to taxpayers. He has said that civility is the foundation on which the other pillars are based.^[21]

Holcomb's first act as governor was creating the office of drug prevention, treatment and enforcement and tasking that office with tackling the opioid crisis and other addiction issues in Indiana. Additionally, early in his first term, Holcomb pardoned Keith Cooper, who served eight years in prison after being wrongfully convicted of an armed robbery, declared a disaster emergency at the East Chicago Superfund Site and ended contract discussions between the Indiana Finance Authority and Agile Networks to manage Indiana's communications infrastructure, including cell towers.^[22]

Holcomb has made attracting international investment and opening more overseas markets for Hoosier-produced goods a priority. Since taking office, he has led 11 international economic development trips visiting with government, business, education, military and nonprofit leaders in the United Kingdom (as governor-elect), France, Hungary, Japan, India, Canada, Israel, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg, South Korea and China. He has also visited Hoosier servicemen and women and members of the United States Diplomatic Corps serving overseas.^[23]

Holcomb's international engagement strategy has resulted in foreign direct investment (FDI) into Indiana increasing 300% since 2017. In recognition of his efforts, the Indianapolis-based International Center named Holcomb its 2018 International Citizen of the Year.^[24]

In April 2017, the Indiana legislature approved Holcomb's request for higher fuel taxes and BMV registration fees to fund infrastructure spending, primarily on road maintenance and construction. The law went into effect on July 1, 2017, and is projected to raise on average \$1.2 billion per year through 2024.^[25]

In the first quarter of 2019, the *National Journal* reported that Holcomb's reelection faced serious challenges. It ranked him number 10 on its endangered list, writing, "Holcomb is facing potential match-ups with former state health commissioner Woody Myers and state Senator Eddie Melton."^[26] By the end of the second quarter, his approval rating had risen to 50%.^[27]

In November 2019, the Center for Investigative Reporting reported that Holcomb had personally pressured an Indiana OSHA investigator to drop a worker fatality case against Amazon so that Indianapolis could have a better chance at being the home of Amazon's HQ2 (a major new office). His office denied the allegations, saying that he had not attended the meeting with the OSHA commissioner and investigator.^[28] Holcomb also said the accusations against him would pose a threat to Indiana's "positive business climate" and demanded they be retracted.^[29] Regardless of whether Holcomb was directly involved, OSHA eventually dropped the citations against Amazon's fulfillment center and the case was reclassified as one of "employee misconduct" rather than a shortfall in training and safety procedures.^[28]

In July 2020, Attorney General Curtis Hill accused Holcomb of overstepping his authority by issuing a statewide face mask mandate with criminal penalties. Hill said that only the legislature has the power under the Indiana constitution to create laws.^[30]

Personal life

Holcomb's wife, Janet, runs a family business in Madison County, Indiana.^[31] They have no children, and own a miniature schnauzer, Henry Holcomb, who is known as the "First Dog of Indiana".^[32]

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External links

- [Governor of Indiana \(https://www.in.gov/gov/\)](https://www.in.gov/gov/) official government site
- [Eric Holcomb \(https://curlie.org/Regional/North_America/United_States/Indiana/Government/Executive/Governor_Eric_Holcomb\)](https://curlie.org/Regional/North_America/United_States/Indiana/Government/Executive/Governor_Eric_Holcomb) at Curlie
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- [Profile \(https://www.votesmart.org/candidate/34349\)](https://www.votesmart.org/candidate/34349) at Vote Smart
- [Appearances \(https://www.c-span.org/person/?ericholcomb\)](https://www.c-span.org/person/?ericholcomb) on C-SPAN

Party political offices		
Preceded by <u>Murray Clark</u>	<u>Chair of the Indiana Republican Party</u> 2010–2013	Succeeded by <u>Tim Berry</u>
Preceded by <u>Mike Pence</u>	<u>Republican nominee for Governor of Indiana</u> 2016, 2020	Most recent
Political offices		
Preceded by <u>Sue Ellspermann</u>	<u>Lieutenant Governor of Indiana</u> 2016–2017	Succeeded by <u>Suzanne Crouch</u>
Preceded by <u>Mike Pence</u>	<u>Governor of Indiana</u> 2017–present	Incumbent
U.S. order of precedence (ceremonial)		
Preceded by <u>Mike Pence</u> <i>as <u>Vice President</u></i>	<u>Order of Precedence of the United States</u> Within Indiana	Succeeded by <u>Mayor of city</u> in which event is held
		Succeeded by <u>Otherwise Nancy Pelosi</u> <i>as <u>Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives</u></i>
Preceded by <u>John Bel Edwards</u> <i>as <u>Governor of Louisiana</u></i>	<u>Order of Precedence of the United States</u> Outside Indiana	Succeeded by <u>Tate Reeves</u> <i>as <u>Governor of Mississippi</u></i>

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